

NEWS AND VIEWS OF FARMERS

HOME LIFE ON THE FARM

The Necessity of Improvement Possible Only by the Right Kind of Education.

In ex-president Roosevelt's announcement of the commission to study the problems of farm life there appeared this sentence: "Whatever will prepare country children for life on the farm, and whatever will brighten home life in the country and make it richer and more attractive for the mothers, wives and daughters of farmers should be done promptly, thoroughly and gladly."

Nobody will deny this proposition, neither can it be disputed that the remedy for most of the miseries of farm life lies in the improvement of the condition of the children. From the children come the men and women of the future, and influence of bad living on the child is plainly seen in our farm life everywhere.

It is a fact, however much we may dislike to admit, that the lives of the boys and girls on the farm are a misery of cases, and that they are hopeless. We have no figures to prove that the greater number of farm children are living without pleasure and without hope, but we base our statement upon personal observation and actual experience.

There are many farmers in every state who have ample means to improve the living conditions of their families—to provide comfortable furniture, help for their wives, education for their sons and daughters, but who live meanly and deny their wives and children and themselves the common comforts of life.

Nobody who intimately knows farm life will deny that these conditions exist. Happily education is making its influence felt, but it comes slowly. There are thousands of farmers in every state who live according to their means, and who are doing their best to help their wives educate their children and give them the benefits of travel and amusement, and who make life ideal on the farm. But these men are in a minority and will be for a long time to come.

The present generation of adult farmers who have not learned the lesson of right living and high thinking is hopeless. It is useless to spend time in trying to drag this class out of the mire.

Whatever movement is started to redeem farm life from its squalid future must be directed toward the boys and girls themselves. They must be shown how farm life can be made desirable. They must be educated along new lines of thought. Hope must be kindled in their hearts and their heart hunger for clean and uplifting pleasures of the future must be satisfied by an act of congress.

As Mr. Roosevelt truly says: "This problem of country life is a national problem. We cannot solve it by local action, but only through education of the kind that Christ taught when he was on earth."

If the "country life" commission can show us as a nation the road—even though it be long and hard—leading to the light it will have accomplished a work of human importance greater than the freeing of the slaves.

WHEN FATTENING TURKEYS

It is a mistake to depend upon corn alone when fattening turkeys. A variety is better.

Potatoes, sweet corn, mangelwurzels, boiled and mixed with ground oats, barley meal, buckwheat meal or cornmeal constitute good fattening foods.

The French fatten with beet root, artichokes or potatoes, boiled and mixed with meal, and give acorns, chestnuts and walnuts. The latter they consider add a delicious flavor to the meat.

While being fattened turkeys should have plenty of ventilation and fresh air in their coops and there should be a plentiful supply of grit, sand and lime rubbish to aid digestion. They should also have all the clean water they will drink.

A popular American method of fattening is to give a morning mash of cornmeal, barley meal or buckwheat meal, mixed with skim milk; a few sweet potatoes may be added. At noon give cracked corn, buckwheat or barley and at night give whole or cracked corn with an occasional feed of buckwheat.

It is best not to coop turkeys during fattening, as they are apt to lose their appetites and become sickly.

If fed all they will eat three times a day they are not inclined to roam, but will sit around quietly.

Turkeys intended for the later market should not be so heavily fed as those intended for sale in a few weeks. They should be killed once when ready for the market, as they will begin to lose flesh and prove unprofitable if kept over this time.—M. K. Boyer.

CURE OF CHICKEN CHOLERA

It is doubtful whether chicken cholera can be cured if it gets a good start in a large flock. It is epidemic, affecting the mucous surfaces, and it always accompanied by diarrhea. It attacks old and small birds as well as the young and weak. The birds die quickly—generally within a day. The birds drop and are seen sunning on the ground, the feathers are ruffled, the wings droop, the feet drag and a consuming thirst is apparent. As soon as the disease is discovered remove every suspected bird from the flock. Do not wait an hour. Absolute cleanliness is necessary. Give one-half teaspoonful of spirits of camphor and one-fourth of an ounce of sulpho-carbolic acid in a quart of water. Disinfect the houses and feed a little meat juice. Give the medicine to the well birds at the same time. Whitewash and spray everything around the poultry yard and houses with carbolic acid.

It does not pay to keep a runt of any kind on the farm. Get rid of them.

BUSY DAYS IN THE SHEEP PEN

The lambing season is now here and the shepherd who loves his sheep and is in the business for profit can call no hour, day or night, his own until all the lambs have been dropped and have been properly cared for.

This is particularly true of a large flock, but even on the average farm where a dozen or two of ewes are kept, the lambing season is almost certain to occur unless the greatest care is taken to provide the ewes with warm, comfortable quarters and proper feed at the critical time.

The ewes should be separated from the main flock and if each ewe could have a little pen for her own, so much the better. By this arrangement the shepherd can look after each ewe much better than if they are allowed to run with the flock.

In the case of twins the ewe frequently clings to one and rejects the other, and this is frequently the stronger one.

If the weakling does not get his supply of milk the shepherd must assist him to do so, and it is often necessary to catch the ewe and hold her while the lamb suckles.

Often a ewe will refuse her lamb, even though it is a single one, and she must then be shut up with the lamb for several days and she must be held while the lamb suckles and until she owns it.

Sometimes the ewe dies in giving birth to the lamb, and it is then necessary to have some other ewe adopt it, and if this is not possible it must be brought up by hand on cows' milk. This is a lot of trouble, but it pays if your lambs are thoroughbred.

At first the milk must be slightly warmed and the lamb should be fed at least a dozen times a day. The number of feedings can be gradually reduced until the lamb learns to drink, when it may be fed four or five times a day.

The great loss of lambs on the average farm comes from exposure during the night. Lambs are dropped in exposed places, and quickly become chilled, and unless the ewes are confined in comfortable quarters or in single pens the shepherd must spend much of the night with his flock to prevent such accident.

A chilled lamb can be quickly dried by placing it in a pail of water nearly as hot as the hand can bear, warming him all over, just leaving his nostrils exposed and nothing more. If the lamb is very badly chilled pour off the water and fill the bucket again.

As soon as he revives rub dry with a cloth, feed him some warm cows' milk and in an hour or so he will be all right and may be put back with his mother.

RYE OR CORN FOR SWINE

What number of pounds a bushel of corn or rye will put on a hog in good growing condition is one of the very many questions our experiment stations have endeavored to answer by a series of scientific tests.

These experiments have shown that the average weight gained by hogs under good conditions is about twelve pounds to the bushel of corn.

This of course varies with different conditions of feeding, etc. Rye is a little less valuable, pound for pound, being about the same as barley, and producing on the average about ten pounds.

It is not usually considered safe to feed an exclusive grain ration of rye, and better results would be obtained from a mixture of rye, meal and corn.

IS DEHORNING CRUEL?

Inquiries are frequently received as to whether the operation of dehorning is very painful, and whether it may not be classed as cruelty to animals.

Those who have had an extensive experience in dehorning appear to agree that the pain induced by the operation has been greatly overestimated, as shrinkage in the yield of milk as well as of butter fat following the dehorning of cows is temporary and insignificant.

On the other hand, the worry, pain and cruelty often inflicted by cattle upon their mates before being deprived of their horns is a different matter.

While being fattened turkeys should have plenty of ventilation and fresh air in their coops and there should be a plentiful supply of grit, sand and lime rubbish to aid digestion. They should also have all the clean water they will drink.

A popular American method of fattening is to give a morning mash of cornmeal, barley meal or buckwheat meal, mixed with skim milk; a few sweet potatoes may be added. At noon give cracked corn, buckwheat or barley and at night give whole or cracked corn with an occasional feed of buckwheat.

It is best not to coop turkeys during fattening, as they are apt to lose their appetites and become sickly.

If fed all they will eat three times a day they are not inclined to roam, but will sit around quietly.

Turkeys intended for the later market should not be so heavily fed as those intended for sale in a few weeks. They should be killed once when ready for the market, as they will begin to lose flesh and prove unprofitable if kept over this time.—M. K. Boyer.

It is doubtful whether chicken cholera can be cured if it gets a good start in a large flock. It is epidemic, affecting the mucous surfaces, and it always accompanied by diarrhea. It attacks old and small birds as well as the young and weak. The birds die quickly—generally within a day. The birds drop and are seen sunning on the ground, the feathers are ruffled, the wings droop, the feet drag and a consuming thirst is apparent. As soon as the disease is discovered remove every suspected bird from the flock. Do not wait an hour. Absolute cleanliness is necessary. Give one-half teaspoonful of spirits of camphor and one-fourth of an ounce of sulpho-carbolic acid in a quart of water. Disinfect the houses and feed a little meat juice. Give the medicine to the well birds at the same time. Whitewash and spray everything around the poultry yard and houses with carbolic acid.

It does not pay to keep a runt of any kind on the farm. Get rid of them.

It is doubtful whether chicken cholera can be cured if it gets a good start in a large flock. It is epidemic, affecting the mucous surfaces, and it always accompanied by diarrhea. It attacks old and small birds as well as the young and weak. The birds die quickly—generally within a day. The birds drop and are seen sunning on the ground, the feathers are ruffled, the wings droop, the feet drag and a consuming thirst is apparent. As soon as the disease is discovered remove every suspected bird from the flock. Do not wait an hour. Absolute cleanliness is necessary. Give one-half teaspoonful of spirits of camphor and one-fourth of an ounce of sulpho-carbolic acid in a quart of water. Disinfect the houses and feed a little meat juice. Give the medicine to the well birds at the same time. Whitewash and spray everything around the poultry yard and houses with carbolic acid.

It does not pay to keep a runt of any kind on the farm. Get rid of them.

HOW TO GROW SEED CORN

To Get the Best Results Every Farmer Should Plant a Seed Corn Patch.

BY G. I. CHRISTIE.

Professor Purdue Experiment Station, Indiana.

Under average methods of seed selection and field conditions there is from year to year more or less deterioration in all varieties of corn. This "running out" or "losing in quality and producing power" of a variety is largely due to mixing and careless selection.

Corn growers are also finding that much trouble and loss is resulting from seed corn harvested late in the fall. They recognize that the best results can be obtained only when the seed is selected early and stored in a proper manner. For these reasons corn growers should employ methods in selecting, planting and harvesting which will give seed of the highest quality and strongest vitality.

One way in which every corn grower can do much to improve and maintain the quality in a variety of corn is by planting a seed corn patch. For this

AMONG THE LIVE STOCK

Pork production returns to the soil the grain food elements that are consumed by the hogs, but cattle and sheep feeding make possible the use of clover, alfalfa and corn fodder and return them to the soil in a manner that will encourage the growth of more clover, alfalfa and grain in the crop rotations and thus preserve the fertility of the soil.

The men who are most interested are the ones who raise their own feeders and make a practice of taking the very best of care of their animals. No man can go out and buy the class of young feeders that are demanded in the production of baby beef.

The advocate of baby beef has as his chief argument that young and growing animals make cheaper gains than older ones, or that the cost of a pound of gain increases with the age of the animal. This law is well established and is primarily due to the fact that growth and lean meat require less food for its production than does fat, for lean meat is a watery tissue compared with fat, and is a less concentrated product. Fat is the most concentrated animal product we have.

Experiments at the Kansas and Indiana stations show that the continued feeding of molly corn to hogs causes nervous and intestinal troubles of a serious nature.

SCENE ON AN INDIANA DEER FARM



The keeping of deer has proved a paying business for an Indiana farmer. From a start of six head he has increased his herd to seventy head in fifteen years. He has sold some each year, the venison bringing 50 cents per pound. He also makes a shipment of horns once a year. The bucks shed their horns in March each year, and they are sold for the making of knife handles.

A GOOD SHEEP-FEEDING TROUGH

Every feature of sheep raising should be carefully studied if one would make a success in this business. No detail looking to their care and comfort is too small to be overlooked.

A flat-bottom trough is better for feeding sheep, as they will not waste so much by pushing the feed out as in the case of the V-shaped trough. The slover eaters also get a little better chance. A trough with an eight-inch bottom board and four-inch side boards, beveled slightly so as to give the trough a wider top than bottom, makes a splendid feeding device for ewes.

Corn and bran mixed may be made in any proportion, one-fourth corn to three-fourths bran or one-third corn. The bran is preferable if the ewes are thin and until they get accustomed to the food.

One important matter is to have a separate feed lot where the feed may be properly placed in the troughs before the sheep are let into the lot; this gives a better chance for all to get an equal share.

It is never advisable to leave the weak in the main flock.

As soon as an animal is noticed seriously on the decline take it out. Have a lot and a shed where this class of ewes may be placed to recuperate under a little better care and where they will have a better chance to eat slowly and get their allowance.—G. W. Hervey.

TRAINING THE FARM DOG

Collies should not be trained to stock until they are about 6 months old. They should be taught to mind whenever spoken to and always use the same words when directing them. When old enough and taught to mind about the house and yard let a long string (binder cord will do) about twenty feet long to collar and take them into pasture with you. Start the cows yourself and keep the dog behind them with you. If he goes to run to the head keep him back with the cord. Teach him that it is not the place to take hold or bark at them. If one will use a little judgment in carrying out this plan he will soon be sufficiently trained so as not to require a cord to his collar.

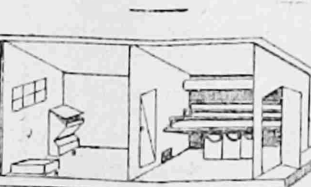
A great deal depends upon the breeding of the dog as to whether he makes a good heel driver. My dogs are all natural horn heel drivers and seldom ever go to the heads. Just this morning I took a 6 months' old pup with me to pasture. He had hardly seen a horse or cow before, but would grab them by the tails and hind legs and did not once go to their front. This simply shows that breeding as well as training are necessary.—Dr. O. P. Bennett, Washington, D. C.

TO KILL APHIS OR PLANT LICE

Take quassia wood, two and one-half pounds, soaked over night in ten quarts of water and well boiled; then strain through a cloth and place with 100 quarts of water in a petroleum barrel, with five pounds of soft soap. The mixture is then ready for sprinkling on plants infested with lice. If the plants reappear repeat the application. The solution can be kept in good condition during the entire season by keeping the barrel covered.

A POULTRY HOUSE

A cheap and convenient poultry house. It can be built for \$20.



ADVANTAGE OF WOODEN HENS

Increased Egg Production Possible by Preventing Hens From Setting.

BY CHARLES P. EMERSON.

Poultry raisers naturally seek the most favorable results possible for the laying capacity of their hens; but even among breeds of poultry well known as egg-producers not all the hens are in fact good layers.

A large number of them lay but few eggs, and often some of these are much smaller than those from other hens of the same breed.

The poultry man who would win pecuniary success from egg production must keep a close watch upon the laying hens, and use for further breeding eggs from those hens only upon which the trap-nest sets the seal of success as egg-producers.

According to Darwin, all of our domestic breeds of poultry are derived from the wild fowl, and the mode of life and, in particular, the propagative activity of this original stock, are far

HELPS ALONG THE WAY

A Nebraska correspondent wants to know if sorghum and millet are safe for horses. They are not.

Why should such feed as sorghum and millet be used when there are so many more suitable feeds just as easily raised on the farm?

If you have plenty of feed it does not pay to sell off the horses in the fall and buy them back again in the spring. The market is wrong at both seasons.

A mortgage on the farm is not such a deadly thing after all, provided the farmer is young, willing to work and reads good farm papers. Under these conditions mortgages will not kill him.

How some of us missed the soiling crops when the awful drought came on last summer! But will we miss them again?

There is no doubt that some of our college experts have discovered the means of killing weeds with chemicals, but the time will never come when we can with safety stop fighting weeds in the old-fashioned way.

Out in Iowa farmers are forming co-operative associations, and so far they have been very successful. It is good business sense to pay the railroad for hauling our live stock to the big packing centers and then pay them again for hauling the manufactured product back to us for consumption.

A Pennsylvania man wants to know how to estimate corn in the crib. If the crib is the same on all sides multiply the length by the breadth in inches, and that by the height in inches, and divide the product by 2748, the number of cubic inches in a heaped bushel, and the result will be the number of heaped bushels of ears.

It is a waste of time and a misdirection of a woman's strength to make soap on the farm. Soap-makers can make a better product than ever was made on a farm, and cheaper at that.

If you want to have rhubarb earlier next spring than anybody else in the neighborhood don't forget to turn a barrel over one or two good plants, this next fall and cover it with coarse manure. There should be holes in the barrel for ventilation.

The best way we know of to turn weeds into profit is to sell them in the shape of mutton.

FENCE RAIL PHILOSOPHY

The neighbor you slight to-day may be just the man you need to-morrow.

To appreciate the power of parents' influence over the lives of their children we need only to observe the unbounded faith of the home. If that faith is ever destroyed it is not the fault of the child.

It's a wise parent, but not always a happy one, that knows its own child.

Good neighbors are always known by the line fence they keep.

A sheep-killing dog is the most despised animal on the place and a foul-minded man comes next.

The farmer who spends four or five hours trying to make something that he bought in the city for half a dollar is on the wrong track.

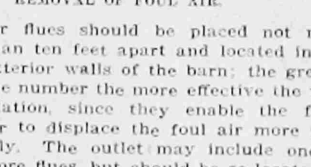
If you have an idle day for a team and a neighbor is behind with his work you have an opportunity to add another star to your crown.

Men who have money to burn and burn it generally get their souls scorched during the conflagration.

If you know a neighbor who does not attend the Institutes you will be doing him a good turn by inviting him and his wife to take a seat in your survey next time you go.

KING SYSTEM OF VENTILATION

F. H. King, professor of soil physics of the Wisconsin university, in 1899, announced a method of ventilation at that time which has become widely known as the "King system." This system of ventilation consists of two sets of flues. One set provides the fresh air, while the other furnishes an escape for the vitiated air. The inlet or fresh



THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THIS SYSTEM ARE SEVERAL INLET FLUES (1) TO BRING IN THE FRESH AIR, AND (2) ONE OR MORE FLOOR AIR FLUES (2) OF ADEQUATE SIZE TO ASSURE RAPID REMOVAL OF FOUL AIR.

Air flues should be placed not more than ten feet apart and located in the exterior walls of the barn, the greater the number the more effective the ventilation, since they enable the fresh air to displace the foul air more rapidly. The outlet may include one or more flues, but should be so located as to provide the quickest means of removing the foul air.

SHEEP LIKE PUMPKINS

Common field pumpkins are invaluable aids to the shepherd at this time of the year. Sheep will eat them greedily and gain in weight rapidly when feeding upon them.

There is never any danger of feeding pumpkins, as they do not cause bloat or indigestion, and then, too, the pumpkin seeds are an excellent vermifuge and when fed in large amounts serve to expel tapeworms and doubtless other forms of internal parasites.

The seeds are the richest and most valuable part of the pumpkin, and consumed alone would provide much of the sheep's digestion; but when eaten with the pumpkin itself they do no harm.

Do not break open nor cut into the pumpkins when they are thrown to the sheep upon pasture, but permit them to gnaw into their shells at their own will, and this process will be sufficiently difficult, so that when they get one broken open they will consume it entirely before attacking another.

At the national apple show held in Spokane, Wash., recently 8,000,000 apples, representing the products in thirty-seven states in the union, four provinces in Canada and England, Germany, France, Norway and Japan were entered in competition for prizes. Most of the \$25,000 offered as prizes stayed right in our own United States. And yet how far from perfection in apple growing we Americans are!

APPLY BUSINESS METHODS

A System in the Dairy Business Makes for Greatly Increased Profits.

BY J. M. DEITRICH, PENNSYLVANIA.

I operate my small farm just as I would any other factory. I have a system that is adhered to all the time and to that much of what success I have attained is due.

Here are some things I have found to be valuable: A helper that is coming in soon should have the same feeding as the cow that is dry. No bag, no cow. Feed so you get anudder. The ewe makes the dairyman. Keep a strict gestation table and read it over every week. Group your cows coming in at different times and count 285 days for a cow to drop her calf.

When a cow is dry she should be thoroughly dry. It is an abominable practice to leave a cow partly dry expecting that it will dry up of itself. Five times out of six she will come in fresh with a bad udder, thick milk or bad quarter.

The right way is to put her on timothy hay and water only and milk her dry by milking twice a day. I know the carelessness of my keepers, but they do not deserve the name of dairymen.

After the cow is dry, and all my cows must be dry four weeks, not more or less, we feed for health and a good calf and give the cow plenty of exercise by milking twice a day. Her hind legs in walking rub her udder better than any man's hand can. If she is fat and you are afraid of milk fever walk her two or three miles a day. If you will walk her six or seven miles I will guarantee no milk fever.

Brans is the safest feed that goes down a cow's throat—hay and bran when she is dry. In ten days to two weeks before calving she ought to begin to make a bag. If she does not on four to six quarts of bran and all the hay she can eat and her bowels are right, give her a handful of cake meal, increase it to two handfuls and on up to a pint if necessary.

At every feed keep your eye on the cow and her udder. It should not be a big, red, inflamed, ulcerous looking thing, hard as a brick and out of shape, but a rounded, pendulous receptacle for milk dignified for maternity.

During the dry period your eye is always on that cow. If she is given exercise and fed for the day the calf is to come your eyes will tell you just the progress she is making, as your ear can tell when the violin is in tune. If her fatness is hard and knobby and she is fat a dose of salts, ginger and molasses given her will relieve her. This should also be given every cow at the time of calving and if she is inclined to swollen udder give one-half pound more of a salts thirty-six hours after calving.

The bran and water are given the cow little and often; that is, one quart of bran in three to four quarts of cold water five or six times a day, and if she adds in good shape give three to four quarts between the bran and water and feed hay sparingly for two days. The cow will refuse the bran and water after two days and then you can commence to give a light meal of cut hay and bran and about the same amount of bran as you fed before she was fresh.

The next meal give a little more linseed and increase it gradually until the fifth day, but never increase her feed at one time more than one-half pound. After all danger is over on the udder is in good shape give one feed the full ration that your cow can digest profitably and she will be all right for 330 days' milk.

Every successful attempt to beautify a place is a plan designed to be the home of a family, whether it be a city lot, a suburban acre, or the area surrounding a farmhouse, has a valuable influence on the entire neighborhood in which it is located.

It is a common error to appropriate by cities and villages for planting and beautifying parks is one of the best and safest investments that can possibly be made.

It stimulates a love for the beautiful in nature and furnishes an object lesson which individuals will attempt to follow.

The beauty furnished by ornamental shrubbery on one's home grounds cannot be selfishly kept by the owner, but is a thing of beauty and a joy forever to every passerby.

In the harmonious arrangement of trees, shrubs and plants and the adjustment of them to the architecture of the house, the convenience of the ways and drives, lies the skill of the gardener, and his ideal should be to imitate nature as nearly as possible.

Every home, including buildings and grounds, should form one complete harmonious picture, and before commencing the work the designer of the whole must be able to have the complete picture in his mind's eye if satisfactory results are obtained.—B. E. Lara.

A FIFTY-YEAR-OLD FARM

Last year we enriched a field with a heavy coat of manure with a view of double cropping it this year.

This same field has been in cultivation since 1853. That season the writer planted it in corn and sold the crop (4 bushels) for 12 1/2 cents per bushel.

Last May we drilled this field with peas for the canner. They did not do as well as usual because of heavy rains during the planting and very hot and dry weather succeeding which baked the soil.

After the peas were gathered the field was replowed and planted in sweet corn and white kidney beans. After these crops were taken off the field was sown in Turkey red wheat.

A few years ago we grew three seasons from the same ground in the season. One acre was planted with peas for early market in rows 3 1/2 feet apart. When we began picking the peas the middles were opened and early potatoes were planted. By the time the potatoes were ready for cultivation the pea vines were removed and potatoes cared for.

We had transplanted celery plants ready for setting by the time the potatoes were laid by in August, and celery was planted in the pea row middles.

The fall being late we secured a first crop of celery for the winter pits.—J. H. Haynes, Indiana.